



**For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
DISTRIBUTED NETWORK  
ADDRESS TRANSLATION WITH  
NETWORK SECURITY FEATURES**

## Group Art Unit 2132

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Dear Sir:

We, David Grabelsky, residing at 3800 Lee Street, Skokie, IL 60076; Michael Borella, residing at 1208 Haverhill Circle, Naperville, IL 60563; Ikhtlaq Sidhu residing at 2502 Branch Road, Champaign, IL 61822; and Danny Nessett residing at 34810 Wabash River Place, Fremont, CA 94555, hereby declare:

1. We are the original and joint inventors of the subject matter in the United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/270,967 filed on March 17, 1999 as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/035,600 (now U.S. Patent 6,353,614), and entitled, "Method and System for Distributed Network Address Translation with Network Security Features."

2. The invention disclosed in the above-captioned patent application was conceived cooperatively by David Grabelsky, Michael Borella, Ikhlaq Sidhu, and Danny Nessett at least as early as September 10, 1998. This date is prior to the effective § 102(e) dates of the references cited by the Examiner: Ylonen et al, U.S. Patent 6,438,612, filed September 11, 1998; and Danieli, U.S. Patent 6,510,513, filed January 13, 1999.

3. Exhibit A accompanies this declaration and includes photocopies of portions of a 3COM Invention Disclosure Form that establishes the conception of our invention. Although the dates have been redacted from Exhibit A, they are at least as early as September 10, 1998. At least four drafts of the patent application were produced, reviewed, and edited prior to filing the application on March 17, 1999.

4. The invention was reduced to practice at least as early as March 17, 1999, the filing date of this application. We were diligent in reducing our invention to practice from a time just prior to September 11, 1998 until March 17, 1999. This diligence included creating and submitting the Invention Disclosure Form of Exhibit A to 3Com's patent department and then working with the outside counsel assigned to this case in order to prepare and file this patent application. At least four drafts of the patent application were created by outside counsel during this time period. We diligently reviewed each draft application and provided outside counsel with all necessary information.

5. Our inventions were conceived and diligently reduced to practice in the United States.

6. We hereby declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: 20 July 2004

Signed: David Grabelsky  
David Grabelsky

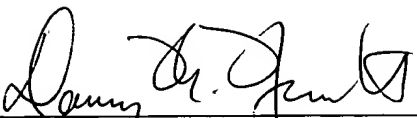
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Borella

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ikhlaq Sidhu

Date: 7-21-2004

Signed:   
Danny Nessett